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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/630,995	07/30/2003	Venkatesh Chitta	LUTR-0201/03-063 P2	7727
23377	7590	11/25/2005	EXAMINER	
WOODCOCK WASHBURN LLP ONE LIBERTY PLACE, 46TH FLOOR 1650 MARKET STREET PHILADELPHIA, PA 19103			VU, DAVID HUNG	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2828	

DATE MAILED: 11/25/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

1. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(b) the invention was patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country or in public use or on sale in this country, more than one year prior to the date of application for patent in the United States.

2. Claims 13, 19, 45, 52-54, 61-62 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by Birk et al.

Birk et al disclose the claimed invention including compact gas discharge lamp KL; a comparator circuit including comparator K1 for comparing lamp voltage U1 with threshold U2; clamp circuit including AND gate A for providing a clamp signal indicate a result of the comparison and voltage U4; and control circuit including switches S3 and S1-S2 for receiving clamp signal U5 and in accordance with the clamp signal the lamp light output level can be varied, i.e., reduced or increased, see, for example, figures 1-2, column 3.

Regarding claims 52-53 and 61-62, column 3, lines 55+ and column 4, lines 1-6 disclose minimum lamp arc current can be reduced and by controlling current IB and lamp current IL lamp light output level is controlled.

Note that the recitation "...for stably dimming a lamp...without observable flicker" has not been given patentable weight because the recitation occurs in the preamble. A preamble is generally not accorded any patentable weight where it merely recites the purpose of a process or the intended use of a structure, and where the body of the

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claim does not depend on the preamble for completeness but, instead, the process steps or structural limitations are able to stand alone. See *In re Hirao*, 535 F.2d 67, 190 USPQ 15 (CCPA 1976) and *Kropa v. Robie*, 187 F.2d 150, 152, 88 USPQ 478, 481 (CCPA 1951).

Allowable Subject Matter

3. Claims 15, 21, 46-51 and 55-60 are objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Response to Arguments

4. Applicant's arguments filed 08/30/05 have been fully considered but they are not persuasive.

Applicant argues that Birk does not teach or disclose "an intermediate lamp light output level". The Examiner disagrees. Figure 2f shows current IB (relating to lamp current or light output level) is having different values, i.e., high, immediate, and low. Thus, reading the claims broadly Birk does teach "an intermediate lamp light output level".

With regard to the term "compact", reading broadly the lamp circuit disclosed in the Birk reference would qualified as compact because the circuit may be arranged in a relatively small space. Furthermore, one of the applications of the Birk device (see, for

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example column 1, lines 5-22, column 2, lines 9-11) is in motor vehicle; thus, inherently compactness of the lighting circuit is required.

Conclusion

5. THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL. Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

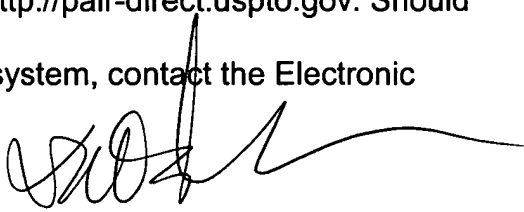
A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the mailing date of this final action.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to David Vu whose telephone number is (571) 272-1831. The examiner can normally be reached on M-F 8am-430pm.

The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

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Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'David Vu', is written over the end of the paragraph.

David Vu
Primary Examiner
Art Unit 2828

dv